



# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA



### Hamfest 2013

The 2013 Charlotte Hamfest™, sponsored by MARS—W4BFB, is almost here. It's being held again this year at the Cabarrus Arena (4751 US Highway 49 North Concord, NC 28025), March 8th and 9th. *NOTE* that that's *Friday and Saturday*, not Saturday and Sunday as in past years. The hours will be 4 to 8pm Friday, and 8:30am to 5pm on Saturday. As usual, there will be plenty to see and do. There will be vendors with the usual assortment of the latest gear and goodies to drool over. If you're looking for bargains, or just the right doodad to complete your latest project, there will also be lots of flea market booths, all indoors. The highlight of the weekend for CDXAers will be the annual Hamfest Banquet, which will be *Friday night* this year. There's lots more information on Page 2.

N4QT	Hal Bouton	President
W4GRW	Bill Fisher	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	W4 QSL Bureau Manager
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
NV4A	John Forbus	Editor

There will be VE testing on Saturday if you're ready to upgrade (...or want to give your non-ham friends a crash course and get them into the Technician Class exam.) There will also be some great forums from fellow CDXAers. Lou, N2TU, with some added color from Joe, AA4NN, will be talking about the NH8S DXpedition; Dennis, K7BV, will be there to talk about his big rover trip around the country; and Bill, W4ZV, joined by Christian Herring, KF4LXB; will have a presentation on SOTA (Summits On the Air) QRP operations in North and South Carolina. In the unlikely event you get tired of looking at and hearing about all the ham stuff, there'll also be Bingo.

The cost of all this fun and excitement is just \$7.00 in advance, or \$10.00 at the door. Your ticket not only gets you in, it gives you a chance to win hourly door prizes. The grand prize this year is a Yaesu FT-817ND, and if you pre purchase your ticket, there's also a special extra prize, a Kenwood TH-6FA.

And there's more: At the CDXA booth, we'll be raffling off a really cool 32 GB Nexus 7 tablet computer featuring the latest Jelly Bean 4.21 Android OS. It has a 1280x800 back-lit HD 7-



(Continued on page 2)

### CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems

K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600 )	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

(Continued from page 1)

inch display and lasts up to 10 hours between recharges. It's thin and light, weighing in at only 12 oz., and measuring 7.81" x 4.72" x .41". It includes WiFi, Bluetooth and a 1.2MP front-facing camera. Other features include GPS, and a microphone, along with access to all the Google and Android apps.

You'll be able to get a raffle ticket, or several, at \$2 ea. or \$5 for three, \$10 for 6, \$20 for 12 ...etc. either from Cliff at lunch, or at the booth. The drawing for the Nexus will be held Saturday at 4:30pm. *You don't have to be present to win.* Even if you pick up your ticket(s) early, come by to visit, to say hi to old friends, and maybe make some new ones.

We're also looking for volunteers to staff the booth. Please use this link (<http://goo.gl/Jk7cs>) for the automated sign-up form. You'll also get a special CDXA long sleeve T shirt as a "Thank-You" for working the booth.



CDXA Presenters, Clockwise from top left:  
N2TU, K7BV, AA4NN, W4ZV

## The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association  
Copyright 2013

Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check or through the CDXA website, to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL  
P. O. Box 577  
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: [jcw53@cornell.edu](mailto:jcw53@cornell.edu).

## Announcing the 2013 CDXA Hamfest Banquet



With the change in the Hamfest schedule, we're also making some changes to the Banquet schedule, and we have a new venue. The Banquet will be held **Friday March 8<sup>th</sup>**, in a private room at the Afton Tavern in Concord, just off exit 54 and I-85 near the YMCA, about 12 miles from the Hamfest. Cocktails and socializing begin at 7:30, and the restaurant has several wine and draft beer specials as well as offering water, coke, diet coke, and tea. A buffet dinner starts at 8:15, so you have time to spend at the Hamfest, and still make it to dinner to brag about whatever jewel you nabbed for a terrific price. Speaking of price, the Banquet price is \$25 per person, *including* tax and tip, payable at the door. To see the entire, mouthwatering menu, (the dessert is rumored to be worth the visit by itself) check out the information and sign-up sheet at <http://goo.gl/hWrJx>. You'll also find links to maps that will let you get directions from your QTH and will provide directions from the Hamfest to the Tavern. There's plenty of parking, but only a limited number of spots are directly in front of the restaurant, so a little bit of walking may be involved.

We are going to have a special guest, and the presentation of a very special ARRL award. Stay tuned for more details to come. One important detail that we can share is that the grand prize for the night will be a Yaesu FT-950, generously provided by Yaesu. Thanks to them for the great prize. Someone's going home with a really nice radio!





## DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA



Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a tablet computer are on page 3 of the [January Pileup](#).

Item 2: Here are the first reports for the 2013 DX King competition. These are the scores I have as of January 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	215	40	255
K7BV	Unlimited	195	38	233
K4GHS	Unlimited	136	35	171
W4HG	Unlimited	158	36	194
W3GQ	Unlimited	121	35	156
W3ZL	Formula	111	26	137
K2SX	Unlimited	76	28	104

Item 3: Don't forget to send me ([w3oa@roadrunner.com](mailto:w3oa@roadrunner.com)) your DX marathon scores as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100.

---

## ARRL DX Contest Starts Soon: CW Starts February 15 SSB Starts March 1

By Dick Williams, W3OA

Last year CDXA placed 4th in ARRL's Medium Club Category with 47 entries and 23.9 million points. We want to do this well or better in 2013. That's why we are offering such great prizes. There are first place prizes in seven categories and participation prizes at the 1000 QSO, 500 QSO, and 250 QSO levels. The details are on page 6 of last month's [Pileup](#). Win a handsome trophy or a steak dinner!

The ARRL's rules are at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>. In a nutshell:

- Each contest starts at 7 p.m. EST Friday night and goes for 48 hours.
- U.S. stations work as many DXCC entities as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10.
- We send a signal report and state. DX stations send a

signal report and power.

- We get three points per DX QSO. (Canada isn't considered DX for this contest.)
- Your multiplier is the sum of DXCC entities (except US and Canada) worked per band.
- Your final score is your number of QSO points times your number of multipliers.

Don't forget to show your Club name as "Carolina DX Association" (spelled out, without the quotes) in the logs you send to the ARRL.

CW Skimmer spots will be available for the CW Contest. And we will be exchanging spots during the SSB Contest. The details are below.

Please send your score summary (number of QSOs, multiplier, final score) and entry category (single or multioperator, single band or all band, power level, with or without packet) to [w3oa@roadrunner.com](mailto:w3oa@roadrunner.com) as soon as possible after each contest. And tell me if you want a trophy or Outback card if you made over 1000 QSOs in the two contests combined. We will publish your scores on the CDXA web site as we receive them. Our intent is to award the prizes at the CDXA dinner on March 8 so I need all scores by March 5.

---

## Packet Enhancements During ARRL DX Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

The CDXA packet network will have extra capabilities during both the CW and SSB weekends of the ARRL DX Contest. You can take advantage of these capabilities with a Telnet connection to [w3oa.no-ip.org](http://w3oa.no-ip.org).

ARRL DX Contest – CW The setup for the CW contest will be the same as it was for CQWW last fall with single band Skimmers running at K4DXA, N2TU, and W3GQ and a six band Skimmer at W3OA. Users will be able to get spots from the traditional Packet Cluster system plus spots from Skimmers in different size geographical areas. These areas can be from one Skimmer to one state all the way up to the whole World. An article on page 7 of the [November Pileup](#) describes how to do this. There is a change since that article appeared. The spotterCqzone and spotterItuzone filters now work. So if you want to see only spots from spotters in the Eastern U.S. you can use "set dx filter ((not skimmer) or (skimmer and (master or unique>1))) and spotterituzone=8". If you want to see spots from spotters in Eastern North



America you can use “set dx filter ((not skimmer) or (skimmer and (master or unique>1))) and spot-tercqzone=5”.

**ARRL DX Contest – SSB** – The setup for the SSB contest will be the same one we used for CQWW last fall. The idea is for each CDXA member to send a spot for every station he hears to other CDXA members. This is done with a small program that runs on each member’s computer. The program looks for callsigns typed into N1MM and if you are not running stations the program sends out a spot through a telnet connection to the cluster node at [w3oa.no-ip.org](http://w3oa.no-ip.org). This happens even if you don’t work the station. After all, a station that’s a dupe for you may be new one for me.

I’ll be distributing the program and setting up the node about a week before the contest. If you’d like to participate send me an email now ([w3oa@roadrunner.com](mailto:w3oa@roadrunner.com)) and I’ll put you on the list to get a copy of the program and detailed instructions. (We will be using the same program we used in CQWW but I still need to send you an updated database to go with it.)

## Contest Operating Aids

Ed Kuebert, K5EK, who’s getting an incredible jump start in the DX King contest, has some contest operating tips just in time for the ARRL contest weekends. Ed says:

Just think of the changes in contesting over the past 30 years. Thirty years ago computer logging and dupe checking were in their infancy on equipment that could not even run today’s contest logging programs – forget about the operating systems. Today we have subsystems that check call signs to see if they are regular contest call signs or unique ones. At the same time these programs suggest a zone, section or other exchange information where it can be accomplished with little risk of error. I have recently been experimenting with the Call History functionality in N1MM Logger. Perhaps you already use this aid, but it is new to me.

For contests such as ARRL Ten Meter Contest and RTTY Round Up that require US stations to exchange their state I went back 5 years and using N1MM exported the Call History for the first year, imported it, using the “Associated Files”, into the log for the next year, updated the Call History with the current log and exported it. I continued this iterative process until I completed the last log. These should be done in year order so old

information is updated. I then exported the final Call History file and saved it for future use. I did the same thing for the 160 Meter Contest where sections are exchanged between US stations and saved a separate Call History File. To use these files you simply hit the “Associated Files” tab when creating or opening a log and enter the Call History file name in the proper place. I did this each time I started with a new year in the process.

There is one gotcha in the process. In addition to the information you want, the Call History file you will wind up with after completing the above process contains all the DX call signs with the serial numbers in your contest logs. During a contest it would be pretty annoying to have these serial numbers pop up when I worked the same DX station in a new contest, so I sorted each Call History file based on sign and then deleted the stations that did not exchange a state, or section in the 160 meter case, with me.

I tried that state Call History File in the recent RTTY Round Up contest and found it be a big help. I could concentrate on the contest and not typing/clicking exchange information into my log except for DX contacts who provide a sequence number. When a station provides conflicting information you must type in the updated information or an error is likely to occur when the contest activity checks the log. At the end of the contest, updating the Call History with the current log then keeps your Call History file up to date.

This is just another operating aid included in N1MM Logger. It does not relieve the station operator from entering accurate information before saving the log entry. In many cases you simply verify the information, hit ENTER and proceed. I did not have many instances where the information was not up to date.

Should you like to try this, I will be glad to email [k5ek@arrl.net](mailto:k5ek@arrl.net) you my latest Call History file for state and section exchange contests. At this point I don’t know if I will do this for past ARRL DX contests or not. I am concerned that there may be too many instances where the exchange varies from the prior year. If you were to find Call History a bother after beginning a contest, it can easily be removed by reopening the log and eliminating the Call History file name under the “Associated Files” tab and continuing the contest.

73, Ed Kuebert, K5EK

## Welcome to New Members

Just in time for the ARRL contest weekends, we also have some new members. CDXA is happy to welcome:

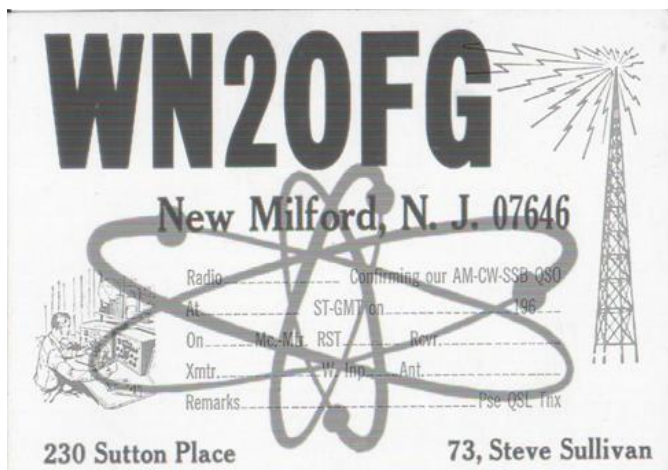
**KI6ZVY, Lieska Motschenbacher**, spouse of Dennis, K7BV; both of whom are now at their new QTH at 290 West Rd., Turkey, NC, 28393, [k7bv@aol.com](mailto:k7bv@aol.com)

**W4DAZ, Rob Rochelle**, P.O. Box 49643, Charlotte, NC 28277, 704-280-0422, [robr@carolina.rr.com](mailto:robr@carolina.rr.com).

**N4FAB, Rebecca Deyo**, (spouse of N1PD), POB E, Catawba, NC, 28609, 828-465-2600 828-465-2600, [paul.deyo@gmail.com](mailto:paul.deyo@gmail.com)

## The Wayback Machine

We'll get to what was happening in CDXA ten and twenty years ago in a first quarter wrap-up next month, but for now, let's go wayback to those pictures of CDXA members taken in earlier days and published in the January *Pileup*. (<http://www.cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa1301.pdf>) That young novice? Well, here's his QSL card. Steve, now KZ2I, says that he was sitting at his first station, an Eico 723, and a Hallicrafters SX-100 (*nice*



*receiver for a Novice, Steve.*) Steve adds "That's my Dad's (WB2KQC) Johnson Viking Valiant II, behind me."

The second picture appears to be John, K8YC, after learning that he didn't win *anything* at a CDXA raffle ...or has that ever happened? Actually, John

had a (very short, apparently) modeling career, and this was one of the shots that made it into some advertisements for depression. Considering the big smile that's usually on John's face, this is pretty good acting!

Now, for that third picture. Is it Ted, W4VHF, or is it really Evil Knievel. Let's compare: What do you think?



Here are a couple of "new" old pictures to ponder. Let me know if you recognize these. And don't forget to send me old QSL cards and/or pictures of you and your shack from the olden days.



## Why is it that ...?

...supermarkets make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?

...you don't ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

## The Back Page

- The 2013 Charlotte Hamfest™, sponsored by MARS—W4BFB is coming up March 8th and 9th. NOTE that this is a Friday and Saturday, not Saturday and Sunday as in the past.
- Because of the Hamfest schedule change, our CDXA Banquet is also changing. It will be Friday night, March 8th at Afton Tavern near the Hamfest. Read about it on Page 2, and follow the link you'll find there for full details.
- In DX King news, K5EK has taken an early lead with 215 countries and all 40 zones worked ...in January.
- On Pages 3 and 4, there's lots of information on the upcoming ARRL DX CW and Phone contests.
- On Page 4, you'll also find an article by Ed, K5EK, that covers some very useful N1MM tips.
- On Page 5, we reveal the identities of the "mystery" photos from January, and add a couple more to ponder.
- As usual, I'm begging for articles, pictures, ideas for articles, etc. I'm working on some QRP-related material, and could use more feedback from those of you who've actually tried it. I think the exchanges with Dan, K3ZXL, mostly via the CDXA Digest, started me thinking about it. I used to operate QRP from hilltops, but haven't tried it in a long time. I'm sure the SOTA presentation by Bill, W4ZV, at the Hamfest will generate some interest in the topic too.

---

**Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL**  
**P. O. Box 577**  
**Davidson, NC 28036**

**jcw53@cornell.edu**

**First Class Mail**

*See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.*